Dear FCC: I am in favor of allowing cell phones to be used on commercial airlines.

I do not believe they create any safety issues for the aircraft. I know the airlines claim that cell phones can interfere with onboard systems, but if the aircraft are so sensitive, they are already in danger since any civilian wishing to down an aircraft could easily beam a stronger signal into an aircraft during landings/takeoff from the area next to an airport. This issue of safety/vulnerability needs to be examined as a separate issue. The two should not be confused.

I have also heard the argument that terrorists onboard could use cell phones for evil purposes. I do not think that is a valid issue, since terrorists can be relied on to use whatever they please, legally or illegally, and if they find an advantage in cell phones they will use them despite any laws restricting the rest of us.

I have heard the argument that passengers will be too loud on their cell phones. That is an issue of common courtesy and the lack thereof. That also should not be confused with the FCC's role in allowing cell phone use, as discourteous passengers already do exist, and the aircraft crew already know how to deal with them.

I believe the FCC should concentrate on the technical matter at hand, i.e. that cell phones can or cannot safely be used on aircraft, and if it is found that they can be safely used, allow their use. If they cannot be safely used, it is incumbent upon the FCC and the FAA alike to find out what the real dangers are, and to address those dangers in the larger context--not simply by restricting the use of cell phones.

Thank you.

Jared Sherman
KC2MMI